

## EDUCATION IN TEXAS.

## THE PRAIRIE VIEW STATE NORMAL THE PRIDE OF THE STATE.

Texas the Banner State and Leads in Money Spent for Negro Education—A Brief History of the Industrial and Normal College—The Growth of the School—Its Work and Its Faculty—President McKinley's Tribute—Notes.

The great work of Normal and Industrial Education goes grandly on. The Southern States generally and Gulf States in particular, are vying with each other in the contest for supremacy and superior excellence.

Figures show that Texas has spent more money for Negro education than any other state. Its magnificent school fund is shared in alike by both races. It supports liberally two state institutions exclusively for Negroes—one at Austin, for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind and the other at Prairie View for normal and industrial training.

The school at Prairie View, Waller Co., Texas, was established in 1878 as an agricultural college for colored boys, but it proved to be a failure in this plan and was the next year in 1879 converted into a normal school to prepare teachers for the colored public school. It succeeded on the new plan and for ten years the school was devoted entirely to normal work, one student from each state senatorial district being granted free board and tuition.

In 1889 in response to a popular demand mechanical and agricultural departments were added for boys and domestic economy and sewing for girls. In 1899 the legislature granted the right of appointment to state students at Prairie View to representatives as well as Senators and the number of such appointment now made is 169, each appointee paying one third of his board expense or \$30 per school year of nine months and \$10 entrance fees in addition.

Graduates from the full course of four years receive diplomas which have the validity of life state certificates. Three hundred and eighteen of these diplomas have been issued since 1885, an annual average of about sixteen. A much larger number of certificates of the first and second grade valued respectively for four and two years have been issued to pupils successfully completing the second and third years of the courses and in this way the teaching force has been materially reinforced for the colored schools of Texas.

This school has done more than any single agency for the educational progress of the colored youths in Texas. At present the enrollment of the school is three hundred and twenty, the force of teachers and officers, all of the colored race, twenty-three and the following departments are now in operation: Mathematics, Science, Language and Literature, History, Pedagogy, Mechanical Drawing, Blacksmithing, (including horse-shoeing), Plumbing, Carpentry, Steam Laundering, Shoe-making, Tailoring, Broom and Mattress making, Hand-Loom Weaving, Gardening, Dairying, General Agriculture and Stock Raising, Sewing, Millinery and Music. The graduates of the school have made

useful citizens and are filling positions of profit, usefulness and honor in the avocations of life, such as teaching, practice of medicine, farming, the Civil Service, and in business life. Most of are teachers.

The annual running expenses of the school, exclusive of buildings and improvements, for which special legislative appropriations are made, foot up regularly \$35,000, which are met by State appropriations supplemented by aid from the Morrill Fund and by receipts from the students.

The principal of this great school is Prof. Edward L. Blackshear, who has done so much to bring it up to its present high standard. He was born in Montgomery, Ala., September 8, 1862. His early school training was in the public schools of Montgomery. While attending the Swayne public school there, Prof. J. M. McPherson, the principal, secured him an opportunity to attend a school in Iowa. He lived in the family of the above-named professor's brother, Prof. A. S. McPherson, who was connected with the school, Tabor College, Tabor, Fremont County, Iowa. Here young Blackshear became acquainted with Prof. H. T. Kealing, who also studied at Tabor, and this acquaintance ripened into a lifelong friendship. Both graduated in June, 1881, and located in Texas. Prof. Blackshear has taught school in Ellis and Bastrop Counties, and was for thirteen years teacher and principal in the Austin schools. In 1896 he was chosen principal of the Prairie View Normal, a position he now holds. Last June, 1903, the trustees and faculty of Wilberforce University voted the degree of Doctor of Laws to Professor Blackshear in recognition of his services as a teacher. In June, 1902, Tabor College conferred the degree of Master of Arts. Professor Blackshear having previously received the degree of Bachelor of Arts on graduation in 1881. Professor Blackshear is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Educational Association, and at the recent Corsicana meeting was unanimously chosen president of the Texas State Colored Teachers' Association. He is a member of the Second Baptist Church of Austin, Rev. L. L. Campbell, D. D., pastor, and of the General Baptist Convention. He is also a member of Silver Trowel Lodge, No. 47, A. F. and A. M., Houston, Texas, of the Hempstead Lodge of G. U. O. of O. F., and a charter member of the Pride of Austin Lodge, K. of P.

The greatest event in the history of the school was the visit of the late President Wm. McKinley, May 3, 1901. It was a beautiful May day and thousands of people from Waller and adjacent counties awaited the President's coming. The President was introduced by Gov. Joseph D. Sayers, who came with him from Houston, to Austin.

He spoke in part as follows, addressing his remarks entirely to the students: "I thank you for your hearty welcome. I have visited a number of institutions of learning provided for your race, notably that great institution at Tuskegee, Ala., another in Savannah, another recently in New Orleans, and it has given me great satisfaction to observe the advancement of your race since the immortal proclamation of liberty was made. The opportunity for

learning is a great privilege. The possession of learning is an inestimable prize, and I have been glad to note that your race is endeavoring, wherever you live, to enlighten your minds and prepare yourselves for the responsibilities of citizenship under this free government of ours.

"What we want more than anything else, whether we be white or black, what we want is to know how to do some one thing well. If you will just learn how to do one thing that is useful better than anybody else can do that one thing, you will never be out of a job, and all employment is honorable employment. The race is moving on and has a promising future before it. \* \*

\* The last word I would leave with you is, be true to right, to home, to family, to yourselves, and to God."

Mr. Emmitt Scott, of Tuskegee, Ala., private secretary to Dr. Booker T. Washington, made a flying trip to Washington, this week, reaching here Monday morning and returning South the same evening. Mr. Scott's mission was to hold an especially appointed interview with President Roosevelt, in regard to matters of vital moment to the race. As the ambassador of the Sage of Tuskegee, Mr. Scott makes good in whatever situation he may be cast. With no time for loitering he returned to his arduous duties at Tuskegee as soon as his mission had been concluded.

## HOWARD MEDICAL GRADUATES DINE.

The Alumni Association Banquet at True Reformers Hall to be an Event in Educational and Medical Circles.

The Alumni Association of the Medical Department of Howard University, will give a grand banquet at True Reformers Hall, Wednesday evening, May 11, to which all of the graduates of the Medical Department of Howard University have been invited. The Banquet Committee has arranged a splendid program of large proportions and propose to make this affair the banner entertainment of the season. It is generally known that the Medical Department of Howard University has turned out more graduates who are practicing their professions and who are making successes out of them, than any school of its kind in the country for colored people. In nearly every city, town and hamlet in the United States of any consequence, the shingle of a Howard graduate may be seen, and to the great credit of the Alma Mater, these graduates are winning success and distinction. The purpose of the banquet is to bring together the graduates of this school to attend the graduating exercises which take place on the 10th of May, to be followed by the banquet on the evening of May 11th.

The Committee of Arrangements consists of the following well known physicians: Dr. George W. Cabaniss, Dr. Charles A. Tignor, Dr. Alice M. Waring, Dr. A. T. Pride, Dr. John W. Mitchell. Each of these have been assigned certain duties in connection with the banquet, and all of whom usually accomplish what they undertake.

Dr. George W. Cabaniss, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements is working with all his energy and is leaving no stone unturned to make the affair a grand success.

SENT ON APPROVAL  
TO RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE

# Laughlin

## Fountain Pen

Guaranteed Finest Grade 14k.  
SOLID GOLD PEN

To test the merits of  
The Colored American  
as an advertising medium  
we offer your choice of

These  
Two  
Popular  
Styles  
For Only

**\$1.00**

Postpaid  
to any  
Address.

(By registered mail 8 cents extra.)

Holder is made of finest quality hard rubber, in four simple parts, fitted with very highest grade, large size 14k, gold pen, any flexibility desired—ink feeding device perfect.

Either style—Richly Gold Mounted for presentation purposes, \$1.00 extra.

### Grand Special Offer

You may try the pen a week, if you do not find it as represented, fully as fine a value as you can secure for three times the price in any other makes, if not entirely satisfactory in every respect, return it and we will send you \$1.10 for it, the extra 10c. is for your trouble in writing us and to show our confidence in the Laughlin Pen—(Not one customer in 5000 have asked for their money back.)

Illustration on left is full size of Ladies' style; on right, Gentlemen's style.

Lay this Paper Down and Write NOW  
Safety Pocket Pen Holder sent free of charge with each Pen.

ADDRESS

**Laughlin Mfg. Co.**  
183 Griswold St., DETROIT, MICH.

NOW DEPOSITED IN THE BANK

**\$75,000.00**

IN CASH GIVEN AWAY.

To arouse interest in, and to advertise the GREAT ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR, this enormous sum will be distributed. Full information will be sent you ABSOLUTELY FREE. Just send your name and address on a postal card and we will send you full particulars.

World's Fair Contest Co.,  
108 N. 8th Street  
St. Louis, Mo.

"WE MOVE EVERYTHING"

Douglas Baggage and  
Furniture Express

1533 14th Street N. W.

R. T. DOUGLAS, Manager

≡ KIN-KILLA ≡

A wonderful preparation for straightening kinky hair. Absolutely harmless. Will positively render the coarsest hair soft and wavy. Once tried, always called for.

LARGE SIZE BOTTLES, 50 CENTS; or sent prepaid by mail for 60 cents in stamps or money order. Send 10 cents in stamps for generous sample to—

S. T. WORCESTER, 65 THOMAS ST.,  
Agent Kin-Killa Company,  
PORTLAND, ME.

RELIABLE AGENTS WANTED.

Please mention this paper when ordering.